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FINANCIAL AND SCHOOL

REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 12,

1867.

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MANCHESTER, N. H. :

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1867.

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## ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT.

The subscribers, accountants of the town of Francestown for the year ending March 12, 1867, submit the following report:

### STATEMENT.

Whole amount of taxes assessed on polls and estates of the inhabitants of said town,	\$8,830 65
Appropriated as follows:	
State tax,	\$2,925 00
County tax,	771 76
Town tax,	5,133 89
	<hr/> \$8,830 65

The treasurer of the town charges himself with the following sums:

Balance in the treasury last year,	\$318 99
Cash rec'd of F. H. Dunklee, bal. last year's taxes,	2,172 90
Cash rec'd of the selectmen, borrowed for the use of the town at sundry times,	4,100 61
Cash rec'd of the county for support of Chas. H. Foot,	55 42
Cash rec'd of Geo. N. White, for an order returned, No. 64,	20 00
Cash rec'd of Hiram Patch for railroad tax,	72 89
" " " " " literary fund,	33 15
" " " " " state aid	235 18
" " " " " savings bank tax,	61 00
" " " " " U. S. bounties,	960 00
" " " " " note against state,	1,296 00
" " Wm. H. Farnum collector, at sundry times,	3,850 00
	<hr/> \$18,476 14



District No. 1,	\$54 82	District No. 7,	\$58 78
2,	65 06	8,	39 53
3,	275 07	9,	19 78
4,	84 48	10,	34 08
5,	196 96	11,	
6,	69 70	12,	19 03

\$917 29  
58 00  
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\$975 29

Paid David Gray, for building new highway,	\$48 00
Nathaniel Whitfield, repairing “	2 70
Thomas E. Fisher, “ bridge,	4 00
E. G. Kemp, “ highway,	4 87
Amos Flints, Jr., “ “	1 80
Otis N. Holt, repairing highway and bridge,	9 69
Henry T. Fisher, “ “	40
Richard Stanley, “ bridge,	7 36
James L. Mason, “ highway,	6 40
Sam'l W. Eaton, “ “	54 01
John T. Felch, “ “	7 67
Amos Whittemore, bridge plank,	11 05
John P. Richardson, “ stringers,	2 00
Gardner Rideout, land damage,	50 00
Otis Holt, “ “	13 00
Geo. H. Stevens, bridge plank, stringers, and labor on Willow bridge,	61 93
	<hr/> \$284 88

Paid David Gray,	64 13	Paid Thomas P. Rand,	\$17 83
Nathaniel Whitfield,	22 69	Luther Hardy,	15 37
James H. Starrell,	20 38	K. W. Emerson,	25 58
Geo. P. Holt,	5 27	Geo. H. Stevens,	23 52
Thomas E. Fisher,	11 75	Daniel B. Tobie,	27 68
A. J. Dodge,	26 95	Moses W. Emerson,	21 00
E. G. Kemp,	54 00	Geo. F. Pettee,	3 57
J. S. Follansbee,	32 50	John C. Dennison,	40 00
Amos Flint, Jr.,	49 45	Charles A. Vose,	13 54
Samuel P. Newton,	11 24	Charles H. Dodge,	30 60
P. C. Kidder,	30 45	Benjamin Weston,	9 04
Otis N. Holt,	21 64	Geo. W. Ross,	49 92
R. M. Sawyer,	31 35	David W. Hill,	36 63

Henry T. Fisher,	22 97	David Manahan,	3 60
Richard Stanley,	12 56	Mason H. Balch,	14 14
E. A. Wilson,	28 62	A. B. Woodward,	21 48
James L. Mason,	2 40	John M. Collins,	7 70
Jesse Woodbury,	47 62	Edwin T. Blanchard,	6 30
Samuel W. Eaton,	22 97	Wm. A. Lord,	2 25
John T. Felch,	20 04	Hiram Patch,	14 46
		<hr/>	
		\$923 29	

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

Paid Rebecca Huntington for boarding and nursing Catharine Huntington,	\$104 00
Benja. Stanley for support of Betsy Stanley,	\$26 00
Funeral charges Hannan F. Dustin,	10 00
Expense Joseph Huntington at Insane Asylum, Concord.	190 84
Expense Dockham children and Charles H. Foot at State Reform School,	138 88
Expense Hannah Pond,	26 00
" Hannah Dustin,	17 06
Transient Paupers,	4 00
<hr/>	
\$516 78	

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Hiram Patch, books and stationery,	\$6 00
M'Lane girls, interest on note,	27 24
Betsy P. Searle, abatement on tax,	8 00
H. Patch, cash paid for sap buckets and boilers for town farm,	34 00
Frank G. Clark, school reports,	14 00
David Atwood, town reports,	22 25
David Gray and Wife, serv. on town farm,	350 00
Samuel O. Brown, bal. bounty money,	121 70
Amos George, bal. bounty due his son,	121 70
George Ames, note and interest,	174 76
Charles F. Sleeper, bounty money,	50 00
James S. Colburn, interest on bounty,	21 60
Samuel D. Downes, bounty of J. S. Ferson,	121 50
John G. Procter, note and interest,	108 00
Geo. A. Duncklee, money for paid cow for town farm,	65 00
May J. Duncklee, interest on note,	12 45
John Johnson, interest on note,	36 13
Abigail Kingsbury, interest on note,	18 00
Joseph F. Duncklee, note and interest,	106 30
David P. Bixby, note and interest,	229 00
1st Nat'l Bank of Francestown, note and interest,	3,612 11
Thomas P. Rand, on note,	136 63



Daniel Whitfield, note and interest,	314 60
Geo. N. White, ringing bell and digging and filling grave,	67 00
Geo. B. Woodbridge, note and interest,	301 70
Huldah Richardson, on note,	34 58
James L. Colburn, note and interest,	101 85
Charles F. Sleeper, note and interest,	73 90
Harlan P. Downes, stock and labor on en- gine house,	4 44
Nancy C. Draper, interest on note,	27 00
Elvira M. Sweetser, note and interest,	21 00
Richard C. Stanley, interest on note,	6 00
Abigail Kingsbury, note and interest,	313 60
Harriet D. Adams, interest on note,	12 00
Mrs. McCurdy, note and interest,	293 75
Abigail H. Trow, interest on note,	15 00
Betsey Trow, interest on note,	3 00
John P. Richardson, interest on note,	24 00
H. Patch, cash paid for bell rope,	7 00
K. W. Emerson, note and interest,	216 45
Geo. F. Pettee, interest on Woodbury Fund,	60 00
Luke W. Preston, cash p'd note savings b'k,	1,378 00
Lois Hopkins, interest on note,	8 40
Luke W. Preston, damages paid J. F. Briggs for loss of horse,	140 00
Francis Gould, interest on note,	30 00
Willard Farrington, note and interest,	126 92
Hiram Patch, cost p'd on suit Briggs vs. town,	18 71
Melissa Follansbee, interest on note,	30 00
Mason Balch, interest,	19 10
Hannah Woodbury, note and interest,	100 52
Hiram P. Clark, note and interest,	425 00
Roxanna Nesmith, interest on note,	30 46
F. H. Duncklee, abatement and over-assess- ment on tax list, 1865,	10 55
Leonard Spalding, sheep killed by dogs,	7 00
A. H. Bixby, sheep killed by dogs,	25 00
Patrick M. Foot, sheep killed by dogs,	2 00
Allen Nutting, damages for defect in highway,	5 50
Polly & Betsey McAlvin, interest on note,	10 80
Geo. A. Duncklee, books and stationery for the use of town,	3 60
Luke W. Preston, stationery,	4 00
Hiram Patch, paid for shovel for sexton,	1 50
Geo. E. Downes, cash paid engine men,	16 50
F. H. Duncklee, highway taxes worked out on his tax list, 1865,	44 56
Samuel P. Newton, abatement on dog tax,	1 00
Geo. F. Pettee, surveying,	2 50
B. S. Abbott, interest on note,	14 19
<hr/> \$9,749 05	

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Hiram Patch, selectman,	\$75 00
Hiram Patch, overseer of poor,	18 00
Geo. A. Duncklee, selectman,	58 00
Geo. A. Duncklee, overseer of poor,	13 00
Luke W. Preston, selectman,	51 00
Luke W. Preston, overseer of poor,	12 00
David F. Patch, town clerk,	15 00
Levi B. Bradford, treasurer,	15 00
Wm. H. Farnum, collector,	62 02
P. H. Bixby & Geo. E. Downes, accountants,	4 00
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	\$323 02
Whole amount of receipts	\$13,176 14
" " " disbursements,	12,772 31
	<hr/>
Balance in treasury,	\$403 83

## STATEMENT.

Amount of notes against the town, with interest to March 1, 1867,	\$22,739 23
Balance in the treasury,	\$403 83
" " collector's hands,	1,283 89
" due from U. S. for bounties p'd soldiers,	1,840 00
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	\$3,527 72
Leaving the town in debt,	\$19,211 51

The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

PAUL H. BIXBY, }  
GEO. E. DOWNES, } Accountants.

## REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN—AGENTS OF TOWN FARM.

The subscribers, agents of Town Farm, report as follows, viz:

Farm in account,	Dr.
To cost of Farm,	\$2,664 38
Amount of stock as appraised last year,	\$758 25
Hay and fodder,	194 00
Farming tools,	111 75
Provisions and produce,	278 64
Miscellaneous articles,	60 25
Household furniture,	147 50
Interest on farm,	159 86
There will be due David Gray April 1, 1867, for his services,	350 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,724 58



## APPRAISAL OF PROPERTY FEBRUARY 16, 1867.

Cr.

By farm, \$2,664 38

## LIVE STOCK.

2 oxen, \$200; 5 cows, \$250,	\$450 00
1 horse, 50; 2 swine, 36,	86 00
7 fowls,	4 00
	<hr/> \$540 00

## HAY AND FODDER.

9 tons hay,	\$225 00
Lot hay and straw,	15 00
	<hr/> \$240 00

## FARMING TOOLS.

1 harrow, 5; 1 drag, 1,	\$6 00
2 pair sled runners,	1 50
Lot of ox yokes, 4; cart, 25,	29 00
1 sleigh & wheelbarrow, 8; 1 wagon & harness, 8,	16 00
3 chains, 4; 1 grindstone, 2,	6 00
2 ox sleds, 6; 4 hoes, 1 50,	7 50
2 shovels, 1 50; 1 whiffletree and chain, 1 25,	2 75
1 shaving horse and flail,	75
2 wood saws, 1 50; 1 horse rake, 2,	3 50
Lot scythes & snathes, 2; 4 hay & manure forks, 3 50,	5 50
2 hand and 9 small rakes,	3 00
2 iron bars, 3, beetle and wedges, 1,	3 00
Sickle and corn cutter,	50
6 axes, 2, lot carpenter's tools, 7,	9 00
4 plows and cultivator,	20 00
	<hr/> \$114 00

## PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

7 bush. wheat, 17 50; 8 bush. barley, 9 33,	\$26 83
8 bush. oats, 5 33; 37 bush. corn, 55 50,	60 83
7 meal bags, 1 75; 76 lbs. beef, 9 50,	11 25
28 lbs. saugages, 5 00; 125 bush. potatoes, 50,	55 00
35 bush. turnips, 8 75; 8 bush. beets, 2,	10 75
25 lbs. candles, 4 33; 400 lbs. salt pork, 67,	71 33
175 lbs. ham, 28; lot cabbages, 1,	29 00
12 lbs. butter, 4 32; 30 lbs. cheese, 4 50,	8 82
175 lbs. salt beef, 21; 52 lbs. lard, 9 36,	30 36
10 lbs. tallow, 1; lot meal, 1 50,	2 50
Lot flour, 1; lot salt, 1 50,	2 50
Groceries, 1; 3 galls. molasses, 2 50,	3 50
4 bush. beans, 12; 3½ bush. peas, 7,	19 00
	<hr/> \$331 67

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

13 M. hemlock logs at mill,	\$91 00
1 gallon vinegar, 50; 20 gallons soap, 4 00,	4 50
Lot soap grease,	2 60



Lot of lumber, 10; 2 lbs. wool rolls, 1 50,	11 50
13 prs. feetings, 7 80; 1 gun, 50,	8 30
Bed and bedding of James McCoy,	12 00
Bed and bedding of Aaron Woodward,	5 00
6½ cords hemlock bark,	46 25
1 side leather, 3 50; household furniture, 147 50,	151 00
Sap fixtures, 38; cash in agents' hands, 94 40,	132 40
	<hr/> \$463 95
	<hr/> \$4,354 00

HIRAM PATCH } Agents  
GEO. A. DUNCKLEE, } for  
LUKE W. PRESTON, } Town Farm.

SCHEDULE of Stock and Articles sold from the Farm, with the amount received for the same, during the year ending February 22, 1867.

Received from sales of stock,	\$127 50
“ for shoats, 38; 6 calves, 41,	79 00
“ “ 65 lbs. hide, 6 17; 36 lbs. poultry, 6 18,	12 35
“ “ 362½ lbs. butter,	146 77
“ “ 4½ doz. eggs, 1 02; cabbages, 40,	1 42
“ “ 64 lbs ham, 12 80, 8 prs. feetings, 4 80,	17 60
“ of town of Bennington for boarding	
Thomas Little,	58 00
Received for peas and beans,	3 79
“ “ breaking roads,	23 20
“ “ 128 lbs. beef,	16 00
“ “ extra labor done by Gray,	41 00
“ “ maple molasses,	70 35
“ “ from Huff for boarding men,	10 00
“ “ of Stephen Rowell for hemlock boards, 5 00	
	<hr/> \$611 98

Which is accounted for as follows:

Paid for vinegar, 2 70; for rennet, 1,	\$3 70
Meal, 16 13; flour, 24,	40 13
Mason work,	2 50
Beef, 10 47; fish, 5 25,	15 72
Tanning leather,	4 00
Buildings insured,	15 81
Shoe bill, 10 70; hooping bill, 2 50,	13 20
Threshing grain, 4 50; ox yoke, 2 25,	6 75
Store bill,	274 36
3 doz. milk pans,	9 60
Fetters and straps,	70
3½ bush. potatoes, 1 75; surveying, 1,	2 75
Grass, 6; Deering tax, 1 62,	7 62
Samuel Foot, for building wall,	6 00

86/960/26  
72  
240

Wagon to Manchester,	1 85
Funeral expenses of Aaron Woodward,	10 00
Bill for Ellen Marble,	3 97
Doctor's bill for Ellen Marble,	10 00
Carpenter work,	11 88
Blacksmith's bill,	17 29
Pigs, 24; for hogshead, 2,	26 00
Doctor's bill, 29 75; medicine, 1,	30 75
Two appraisers,	3 00
Cash in agents' hands,	94 40
	<hr/> \$611 98

The average number of paupers who have been supported on the farm the past year is seven. The whole cost of supporting the paupers on the farm after paying the interest on cost of farm and the superintendent's services, is \$370 58. It is known by most of the voters in town that the crops on the farm were injured by the hail storm very much. Therefore, the superintendent has labored under some disadvantage. There have been built forty-one rods of stone wall on the farm the past year.

The support of paupers off the farm has been \$461 36, including Joseph Huntington's board at the Asylum, and Dockham girls at house of Reformation, making the total support of town paupers during the past year, \$831 94.

HIRAM PATCH,	} Agents of Town Farm
GEO. A. DUNCKLEE,	
LUKE W. PRESTON,	
	and
	} Overseers of Poor.



# SCHOOL REPORT.

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In making up the annual report of the schools in Francetown, your committee labors under the disadvantage of not being thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the schools the previous year, therefore we cannot judge with so much correctness the progress made from one year to another. We have examined teachers, and visited every school, with a single exception, at least twice, and given such advice and words of commendation as we thought needed. The amount of good or injury done, we leave others to judge.

We submit the following statements and statistics of the various schools.

## DISTRICT NO. 1.

Money, \$54.42. Elias A. Wilson, Prudential Committee.

### SUMMER.

Length of school, 8 weeks. Number of scholars, 10. Average, 8 1-2. Wages per month, including board, \$16. M. Emmie Emerson taught "A No. 1" school. Scholars were *very* punctual, five of the seven belonging in the district not being absent a single day, and the remaining two only two days each, and that on account of sickness. *All* the exercises were good, but in *reading* very marked progress was made. We only regret that more could not have enjoyed the privileges of the summer term.

### WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks. Number scholars, 10. Average, 8 3-11. Wages, \$22 per month. S. Addie Bryant, teacher. This school was small in point of numbers, but great in improvement. The teacher labored with a becoming zeal to interest her pupils, and they caught the spirit, and as a result a good amount of knowledge was treasured up for future reference. The recitations at the close of school were well adapted to time and place. A neat and commodious school room, with parents and friends who take more than interest enough to *send* their children to school, is no disadvantage to the prosperity of any district.

## DISTRICT NO. 2.

Money, \$65.06. Thomas E. Fisher, Prudential Committee.

### SUMMER.

Length of school, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 18. Aver-

age, 15 5-6. Wages, \$16 per month. S. Addie Bryant, teacher. At the commencement the school appeared well and promised a good term. We were not notified of its close, therefore did not visit it, and cannot state the improvement made, but judge they had a good school.

#### WINTER.

Length of school, 6 weeks. Number of scholars; 19. Average, 15 9-11. Wages, \$23.20 per month. This district was highly favored with the services of Carrie M. Cochran, for the short space of six weeks. The chief hindrance to the improvement of this school was, the end of the term was too near the commencement; but six weeks of *good* school, such as the children here enjoyed, is vastly better than a dozen of poor. In view of the shortness of the term, much good was gained, to the credit of teacher and taught.

#### DISTRICT NO. 3.

Money, \$275.07. Moses W. Eaton, Prudential Committee.

#### SUMMER.

Length of school, 11 weeks. Number scholars, 32. Average, 27 1-6. Wages \$20 per month. Anna F. Gale, teacher. The teacher was young and inexperienced, and entered upon her labors under disadvantages, many of the members of the district being prejudiced against her, which always makes it difficult for one to succeed; but she so far succeeded as to more than meet the best expectations of those who patronized her. The order was good, and scholars showed a good degree of promptness. The scholars of this school are not so far advanced, especially in arithmetic, as the advantages which they have enjoyed should place them.

#### FALL TERM.

Length of school, 12 weeks. Number scholars, 22. Average, 16 6-7. Wages, \$20 per month. The same teacher was engaged for the second term. The number of scholars at the close was much diminished either by length of school or disaffection or both. Those present at the close appeared well and showed a fair proficiency in their studies. We think this term was altogether too long for the good of the winter school.

#### WINTER.

Thirty-one of the more advanced scholars were sent to the Academy, agreeable to an arrangement made by the district, and were under the teaching of Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Clark. That these favored ones were under good training and thorough drill is but feebly telling what those present at the closing day will testify. Average, 29.

The winter term, with Miss Gale for manager, is still in operation, with much fewer scholars than should compose a school in so



large a district. *Prejudice* on the one hand and *obstinacy* on the other, are not the best ingredients with which to make a good school.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4.

Money, \$84 48. Hiram P. Clark, Prudential Committee.

##### SUMMER.

Length of school, 12 weeks; number scholars, 30. Average, 24 1-2; wages, \$17 per month. Ellen M. Kennedy, teacher. The attendance, as shown by the register, was quite too irregular for profit. The teacher was well qualified and labored faithfully. Most of the closing exercises were good. Reading above the average, and recitations well committed. Scholars a little too much inclined to lean upon the teacher for a starting point.

##### WINTER.

Length of school, 9 weeks; number of scholars, 35. Average, 28 3-5; wages, \$20 per month. Mary F. Gilchrist, of Hancock, teacher. This is the largest school in town, and no small amount of labor is requisite to carry it successfully through. It needs a teacher in which is combined a good number of the virtues, such as patience, perseverance, forgiveness and durability. In Miss G., the children committed to her care found a kind, competent and faithful instructor. The term was short, and the inclement weather and bad traveling detained many at home just the time when they should have been reviewing; consequently the examination was not a fair index of the school. We would speak well for Miss G. as a teacher.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

Money, \$196 96. James C. Follansbee, Prudential Committee.

##### SUMMER.

Length of school, 12 weeks; number scholars, 11. Average, 10 6-7. Wages, \$17 per month. Carrie M. Cochran, an experienced and good teacher taught the summer term. The closing exercises plainly showed to parents and others, of which there was a good number present, that the little ones of No. 5 had been punctual, interested, and had teaching and training of the right kind. All branches received due attention. Attendance better than any other school in town.

##### WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks; number scholars, 17. Average, 13. Wages, \$38 per month. The services of Rodney H. Wilder, of Peterboro', a teacher of experience and ability, who labored faithfully for the good of the children of this district, coupled with the aid of parents and the good will of his pupils, insured a pleasant and profitable term. Classes in arithmetic and spelling excelled. The thing of which the district is *most* in need is

evident not only to members of the district, but the traveling public.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

Money, \$69 70. Geo. Kingsbury, Jr., Prudential Committee.

##### SUMMER.

Length of school, 9 weeks; number scholars, 18. Average, 15 1-8. Wages, \$17 per month. Katie E. Kidder, teacher. Here in a house filled with bright-eyed children, all life and animation, busy as bees, a good school was taught; and notwithstanding a few parents saw fit to take their children from the school, the loss occasioned did not materially affect its usefulness. The reading and spelling were very good.

##### AUTUMN.

Length of school, 9 weeks; number scholars, 18. Average, 16 3-7. Wages, \$20 per month. This district found in Carrie M. Cochran a teacher who had experience and independence sufficient to manage her affairs without being wafted about by every floating report which might come to her ears. Geography and reading excelled. Here is material for a good school, and only needs years and good tutorage to place it among the first in town.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

Money, \$58 78. John C. Denison, Prudential Committee.

##### SUMMER.

Length of school, 6 weeks; number of scholars, 6. Average, 4 1-3. Wages, \$10 per month, exclusive of board. Lora M. Carlton of Deering, teacher. The school appeared well at the beginning, but the teacher failing to duly appreciate the responsibility of her vocation and set a good example while out of school, the school dwindled to nearly zero, and closed before its allotted time, (but none too soon) with two scholars. Improvement, invisible.

##### WINTER.

Length of school, 8 weeks; number of scholars, 7. Average, 6 2-3. Wages, \$20 per month. This term was under charge of Althea C. Smith of Weare. A little of the old spirit peculiar to the district exhibited itself, but the school moved on and the closing exercises were good. Classes in arithmetic excelled. Miss S. was young and little experienced, but she conducted the school in a manner creditable to herself, and we trust profitable to those under her care.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

Money, \$39 53. David Manahan, Prudential Committee.

##### WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks; number scholars, 10. Average, 9 1-5. Wages, \$12 per month, exclusive of board. The only



term in the year was taught by Hannah B. Woodbury, a teacher who was well qualified and strove to do her part towards having a good school. The school appeared well and made fair improvement, but the progress was much impeded from several causes. The school house was burned three weeks after commencement. They then changed quarters to the house of Geo. W. Ross. Several days were lost in "getting the hang" of the new school room; but the greatest obstacle was want of punctuality. The record of the first three weeks was burnt, and for the fifty remaining days in this school of only ten scholars, the register shows one hundred and eighty-five cases of tardiness. This is without a parallel in town. We hope, hereafter, they will come to time.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9.

Money, \$19 78. Edwin T. Blanchard, Prudential Committee. Length of school, 10 weeks; number scholars, 14. Average, 9. Wages, \$6 per month, exclusive of board. Only one term taught here, and that by Jennie M. Marden. Gathered from the neighboring towns and adjoining districts, quite a goodly number were assembled to receive instruction from one willing and able to give. The school did well, but not so much improvement can be made where the pupils are so floating. Only two scholars were members of the district. Is there not some way by which Mr. Blanchard can be better accommodated, with less expense?

#### DISTRICT NO. 10.

Money, \$34 08. Wm. R. Sawyer, Prudential Committee.

##### SUMMER.

Length of school, 9 weeks; number of scholars belonging to town, 7. Average, 6 3-5. Wages, \$14 per month. This is a union district with Lyndeboro'. Lucretia H. Rideout commenced her labors of teaching here, and taught to the general satisfaction of the district. The exercises at the close were very commendable.

##### WINTER.

Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars belonging to town, 12. Average, 9 1-4; wages, \$20 per month. Lottie M. Wardwell of Andover, Mass., guided the young ideas here. Miss W. was a thorough scholar, and having a good degree of experience and knowing well how to impart her knowledge to others, could not fail of doing good service to the children of No. 10.—The order was not quite up to the mark, but we think the term a profitable one. A piece of music executed by the school, the closing day, we wish would meet with a hearty response, Oh dear! dear! what can the matter be? dear! dear! parents don't visit the school.

## DISTRICT NO. 12.

Money, \$19 03. A. J. Dodge, Prudential Committee.

## SUMMER.

Length of school, 10 weeks ; number scholars in both towns, 5. Average, 4 2-3 ; wages, \$6 per month exclusive of board. Jennie M. Marden taught an excellent little school here. The school was *very* small, too small to be pleasant ; but the few who attended showed great improvement, reflecting credit upon teacher and scholars.

## WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks ; number scholars, 7—3 of which belong to Francestown. Average, 6 1-3 ; wages, \$12 per month, exclusive of board. A good school again. This district was favored with the valuable services of Mary F. Atwood of New Boston, who taught in every respect an excellent school. Scholars were thorough in all the branches, and the amount of useful knowledge received from Miss Atwood's well-stored laboratory of science was worthy of note. A class in Colburn's Mental did credit to themselves, besides surpassing any class in town. The best scholars of their age in town are here found.

We have thus given a brief report of each school taught in town the past year. Our schools have not *all* made that improvement we could wish, but we think a fair degree of progress has been made. The summer schools, generally, did better than the winter, owing, in a great degree, to the extreme bad traveling the latter part of the winter term. Would it not be advisable for winter schools to commence earlier ? Is not one week's school in November worth two in February ? Would it not greatly increase the average attendance ?

Teachers have generally been well qualified, both in respect to literary qualifications and manner of governing and imparting instruction. But teachers, like verbs of olden time, may be classed into the active, passive and neuter. We are happy to believe that a large proportion of our teachers belong to the first class. But other things are essential to a good school besides a good, active teacher. In order to have a profitable school, and have affairs move on harmoniously, there should be unanimity of feeling among the members of the district. The subject of education should be alike common to all ; therefore the importance of attending the annual school meeting. Every voter, in every district, should attend the meeting, and esteem it not only a duty but a privilege to use his influence towards appointing judicious officers to manage the affairs of the district. Many are the instances where scarcely enough legal voters are at the meeting to transact business ; and in such cases it not seldom happens that persons



not having the first qualification for the office are chosen to select and hire teachers who leave their mark, for weal or woe, on the rising generation. Now, as the time is at hand for these meetings, we hope all will bestir themselves in the cause, and choose for Prudential Committees men who attach a proper value to education.

A mistaken idea which many people entertain is, that they must have about so many weeks school, be there little or much money. Now it should ever be our motto, not how *much*, but how *good*. One month of *good* school, where the teacher knows how to lay out the work, and keep the crew all in peaceful subjection, teacher and scholars striving to make each other's task light and pleasant, is of infinitely more value than twelve weeks of cheap-hire and cheap-work teaching.

If the parents only knew and realized the amount of injury done to a school, the great annoyance to the teacher, and the lasting injury to the pupil in the formation of habits, we think more effort would be put forth to see that their children are at school regularly and in season. Punctuality in the child at school is the same as in a man of business, one of the essential things upon which success depends.

One hundred books have been purchased and scattered throughout the town, from the proceeds of the "Woodbury Fund," by the selectmen and your committee.

The matter of re-dividing the town, so as to form a less number of districts, was urged by your committee last year. We would further urge this matter, as we think it a favorable time to re-district the town, as there are several school houses which need repairing or rebuilding the present year. In the entire west part of the town there is not a school house. Cannot the whole town be so overhauled as to form less districts without discommoding more than will be counterbalanced by having more money, larger, longer, and better schools?

Teachers, to you the rising generation look with wishful eyes. Upon you devolve duties of responsibility second to but few if any; that of guiding and moulding the pliant mind of the youth. You are to leave your impress upon those under your charge; an impress which shall help to make or mar. May you all so have discharged your duties that, in after years, not a single pang of sorrow will be experienced from the recollection of unfaithfulness in your responsible vocation. Happy are ye, and fortunate for those committed to your care, if the essential elements of a good teacher are within you. The time has passed when the teacher's sole business was to preserve order and ask the questions. The labor of elucidating principles and explaining

the "why's and wherefore's," is no small part of a teacher's business. This is an age of improvement. Young America is abroad and awake, and our children wish to know, and that with reason, something more than "the book says so," or the mere "ipse dixit" of the teacher. Therefore, teachers, prepare yourselves for the work, your calling is noble, persevere and your reward is sure.

Children of the common schools of Francetown, now is your golden opportunity to stock your minds with that knowledge, without which, man is but a mere machine, being moved about at the will of the operator. Not that education makes the man, but that, linked with good moral habits grow into the man of honor and integrity. To form habits of obedience, temperance, honesty and morality, is of as much and even more importance than learning to read and write. Idleness in youth generally "grows with your growth and strengthens with your strength," till you find an old age of ignorance and misery. Let your starting point be right, continue in that course, ever looking upward, and your end is sure to be crowned with its proper reward.

Lastly we appeal to parents and all good citizens of the town, to guard well these humble institutions of learning. These institutions which give New England so enviable a name abroad. In these is our hope: hope for the present, and hope for the future: hope for the men of intelligence and respectability; the neighborhood and the country. If you would see your sons and daughters grow up virtuous and intelligent, ornaments to society and shining lights in the world, lend us your aid in raising the standard of common schools.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. F. PETTEE,

Superintending School Committee.

Francetown, Feb. 22, 1867.







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